



State of South Carolina
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

André Bauer
Lieutenant Governor

Office on Aging
Cornelia D. Gibbons
Director

Media Advisory:
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Contact: David Lucas
(803) 734-9917
dlucas@aging.sc.gov

**\$10,000 Grant from Lt. Governor's Office on Aging Will Support
In-home Alzheimer's Respite Program in Beaufort County**

- **Who:** Alzheimer's Family Services of Greater Beaufort, Executive Director, Barbara Hunt. Ms. Hunt can be contacted at (843) 521-9190.
- **What:** This local organization that serves senior citizens and their families in your community was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from the South Carolina Lt. Governor's Office on Aging to expand their In-home Respite Care program for individuals with Alzheimer's disease.
- **When:** On June 28, Lt. Governor André Bauer will personally present the grant award to the program's leaders. Photographs of the award presentation will be available for news organizations unable to attend.
- **Where:** The grant awards ceremony will take place at the Statehouse in Columbia. Lt. Governor Bauer's Office is on the first floor.

Background:

Alzheimer's Family Services of Greater Beaufort provides a full range of services for individuals suffering from Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, their families and caregivers. In-home respite care is a critically important support for many families struggling with the disease, but access to this vital service can be limited because of cost and availability.

In its grant application, the agency reports that the cost of this service can run as high as \$3,000 per patient per year. For some members of the community, that cost is simply out of reach.

The \$10,000 grant from the South Carolina Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center, will allow the agency to offer these services to more families based upon their ability to pay. Beaufort County is one of the fastest growing counties in South Carolina, and that growth rate is even higher for people aged 65 and above. Program managers for the agency report that the demand for their services "seems to grow weekly."

The agency's current in-home respite program serves primarily late-stage Alzheimer's patients, whose level of care and need for additional medical services can be quite high. The majority of these patients are African American or Gullah residents of the county.

The Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center - a part of the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging was created to provide statewide coordination, service system development, information and referral, and caregiver support services to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, their families and caregivers. Legislation directs the center to:

- Initiate the development of systems which coordinate the delivery of programs and services
- Facilitate the coordination and integration of research, program development, planning and quality assurance
- Identify potential users of services and gaps in the service delivery system and expand methods and resources to enhance statewide services
- Serve as a resource for education, research and training and provide information and referral services
- Provide technical assistance for the development of support groups and other local initiatives to serve individuals, families and caregivers
- Recommend public policy concerning Alzheimer's disease and related disorders to state policymakers
- Submit an annual report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging and to the General Assembly

A detailed demographic look at South Carolina and Beaufort County's senior population based on the 2000 federal census can be found at www.scmatureadults.org. The report Mature Adults in South Carolina is a publication of the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging.